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VII.—LIVY VII. xiv. 6-10.

Dictator tamen, ut qui magis animis quam viribus fretus ad certamen descenderet, omnia circumspicere atque agitare coepit ut arte aliqua terrorem hostibus incuteret. Sollerti animo rem novam excogitat, qua deinde multi nostri atque externi imperatores, nostra quoque quidam aetate, usi sunt: mulis strata detrahi iubet binisque tantum centunculis relictis agasones partim captivis, partim aegrorum armis ornatos imponit. His fere mille effectis centum admiscet equites et nocte super castra in montes evadere ac silvis se occultare iubet neque inde ante movere quam ab se acceperint signum. Ipse, ubi inlucit, in radicibus montium extendere aciem coepit sedulo, ut adversus montes consisteret hostis. *Instructo vani terroris apparatu, qui quidem terror plus paene veris viribus profuit*, primo credere duces Gallorum non descensuros in aequum Romanos; deinde, ubi degressos repente viderunt, et ipsi avidi certaminis in proelium ruunt, priusque pugna coepit quam signum ab ducibus daretur.

The only difficulty in this clear and straightforward narrative is the awkwardness of the words italicized, when considered in relation to the context. The stratagem of Sulpicius has no bearing on the belief entertained by the Gauls that the Romans would not fight. Messrs. Walters and Conway, in the new Oxford text of Books VI-X (1919), address themselves to this difficulty, and seek to rectify the logic of the passage by a new punctuation, as follows:

Ipse, ubi inlucit, in radicibus montium extendere aciem coepit sedulo, ut adversus montes consisteret hostis, instructo vani terroris apparatu, qui quidem terror plus paene veris viribus profuit. Primo credere duces Gallorum etc.

The words *instructo—profuit* are no doubt better off when separated by the full stop from *duces Gallorum*; but the ablative absolute comes in awkwardly, telling us what we had already gathered from §§ 7 and 8, and serving principally, it would seem, as a clumsy introduction to the observation made in the clause *qui—profuit*,—an observation which would have been distinctly more in place immediately after § 8. The Oxford editors suggest indeed the possibility that the words *instructo—profuit* belong before *Ipse*, but they find in the MSS no indication that there has been a dislocation in the order.

It is, however, not necessary to resort to transposition. Keep the punctuation used by Messrs. Walters and Conway, and read *instructos* (agreeing with *montes*) for *instructo*, and Livy's thought becomes clear: Having prepared a surprise for the enemy, the Roman general manoeuvred them into a position where it would be effective, and the result fully justified his plan. We may translate thus: "The dictator himself, as soon as it was light, began to deploy his troops along the lower slopes, on purpose to make the enemy take their stand facing the mountains, where the preparations had been made for inspiring them with a fear which, groundless though it was, yet served the Romans almost better than actual strength."

The expression *instructo vani terroris apparatu* was sufficiently natural (cf. *discusso itaque vano apparatu hostium*, chap. xvii § 5) to satisfy an inattentive scribe, whose mind was working mechanically from word-group to word-group, without troubling about the larger units of sentence and paragraph. For the construction with *instructos* Livy has the following parallels, if parallels are wanted: IĀ. xlv. 9, *castra apparatu rerum utilium instruxit*; XXIV. xxxiv. 13, *ea pars* (sc. *Achradinae*) *eodem omni apparatu instructa erat*; XXXIV. xxix. 3, *urbs omni bellico apparatu instructa*.

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